

Evening Telegraph

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED), AT THE EVENING TELEGRAPH BUILDING, NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1870.

THE BALLOT AND VIVA VOCE.

JOHN STEWART MILL, the English writer on political economy, has recently propounded to the Social Science Association of Philadelphia sundry questions in regard to the practical operation of the vote by ballot.

It must be confessed, however, that, like all other human institutions, even the ballot, as established in this city, is not absolutely perfect; and we could not give entirely satisfactory answers to all of Mr. Mill's questions.

Mr. Mill's question whether voters are "desirous of concealing their opinions and votes," however, may be emphatically answered in the negative. As a rule they are remarkably free and outspoken, and doubts about the political position of American voters or a desire for concealment occur only in exceptional cases.

When Mr. Mill asks "what influences, such as corruption, intimidation, or other, have most effect on the vote, and does the ballot protect the vote fully from these, or in what point does it fail to do so?" his query brings into strong relief the superiority of the American system.

An answer nearly as satisfactory could be given to his question whether the body of voters are "intelligent and apparently swayed only by public motives," but an Englishman who is not familiar with the ramifications of our politics, and with the prevailing thirst for office, would not be likely to comprehend, without minute explanations, the extent to which our political machinery is manipulated by men inspired, in part, by personal ambition.

Mr. Mill's last query is as follows:—"Do you think open or secret voting best secures the expression of the elector's convictions, exposed as he is in the one case to intimidation, and in the other screened from the healthy influence of public opinion?"

This question, too, displays an ignorance of the workings of the ballot in this country which is scarcely pardonable. It implies that its use screens American voters "from the healthy influence of public opinion," and that this fact is as notorious as the intimidation of British voters under the viva voce system.

Fortunately for the honor of our country, Mr. Mill does not ask about the operations of the "repeaters." Perhaps if he did we should be obliged to confess that the English system may have the solitary virtue of furnishing a better safeguard against their rascality than our own.

THE ALASKA SWINDLE.

Even since we paid our money for Alaska we have been hoping almost against hope that it might possibly turn out to be of some value, but exactly how we were to get the interest on our investment no one was able to say.

diplomacy, to remind us that sometimes, at least, the proverbial Yankee oneness in driving a bargain is seriously at fault in matters of considerable moment. The fact is that we have been badly sold in the purchase of Alaska, and we would be well off if the money paid to Russia was all that it will cost us.

THE FICKEN SHOOTING CASE AGAIN.

YESTERDAY there was another hearing of the Ficken shooting case in the Court of Quarter Sessions, and on the surgeon's testimony that the boy Curran appeared to be out of danger, it was decided to release Ficken on bail, to answer the charges against him in the bill returned by the Grand Jury.

HOMICIDE THROUGH IMPRODENCE.

IF RICHARD FICKEN of Philadelphia were a Frenchman and a member of the Imperial family, he would probably be tried upon the charge of "homicide through imprudence," which is the novel title that has been invented by the French officers of justice for the crime of Prince Pierre Bonaparte in shooting Victor Noir.

It will not be difficult to foretell the result of a trial based upon such a charge, and the pleasant anticipations of Rochefort that a Bonaparte would be the successor of Traupman under the axe of the guillotine will scarcely be realized.

Even since we paid our money for Alaska we have been hoping almost against hope that it might possibly turn out to be of some value, but exactly how we were to get the interest on our investment no one was able to say.

character of Pierre Bonaparte's crime as defined by the legal representatives of his imperial cousin, also announces that Victor Fickel, one of the editors of La Marseillaise, and the companion of Noir when he waited on his assassin has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of five hundred francs for violating the press laws.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For additional Special Notices see the Inside Pages.

FINEST GENTS' READY-MADE FURNISHING CLOTHING. GOODS.

JOHN WANAMAKER, Nos. 818 and 820 Chestnut St.

YOUTH'S FASHIONABLE AND BOYS' MERCHANT CLOTHING. TAILORING.

FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE. GRAND TEMPERANCE CELEBRATION ON WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1870. (AFTERNOON AND EVENING), AT HORTICULTURAL HALL.

ALL FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE EARNESTLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

AFTERNOON MEETINGS. At 3 o'clock P. M., a meeting for adults will be held in the main audience room.

EVENING MEETINGS. The meetings in the evening will assemble at 8 o'clock. Hon. J. A. Allison will preside in the main audience room.

Are invited to be present in regular order.

The famous Juvenile Band, from Girard College, will be present afternoon and evening.

Members of the Grand and National Bodies of the above organizations, and the members of the general and sub-committees, will be provided with seats upon the stage.

Let there be a grand outpouring of all friends of temperance, irrespective of organization or party, to make this a glorious jubilee.

Arrangements have been made to accommodate all. The three large rooms at Horticultural Hall have been opened for the occasion.

By order of the Committee of Arrangements.

WILLIAM W. AXE, Chairman.

OFFICE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY. PHILADELPHIA, February 18, 1870.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS. The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on MONDAY, the 22nd day of March, 1870, at the Office of the Company, No. 22, South Third Street.

NOTICE. In consequence of the confusion incident to the change in the administration of this department, under the direction of the Superior Court in the contested election case, it has been determined, with the indorsement of the Finance Committee of Council, to open the duplicate for the reception of the City and State Taxes for the year 1870, on MONDAY next, February 21, 1870.

OFFICE OF THE DIAMOND COAL COMPANY, No. 209 WALNUT STREET. DIVIDEND NOTICE.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE CONNELLSVILLE GAS COAL COMPANY will be held at their Office, No. 345 WALNUT STREET, on FRIDAY, March 4, 1870, at 11 o'clock A. M.

AUSTRALIAN AND ALASKA DIAMOND AND GEMSTONE DEALERS, and all the latest styles of Fashionable Jewelry at low prices.

JAMES M. SCOVILLE, CAMDEN, N. J. FOR COLLECTION OF NOTES OVER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, FIVE PER CENT.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC. THE STAR COURSE OF LECTURES. GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, On THURSDAY EVENING, February 21. Subject—"Our National Folly—The Civil Service."

HORACE GREELY AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, TUESDAY EVENING, Feb. 22. Subject—"THE WOMAN QUESTION."

THE WESTERN SAVING FUND SOCIETY, office Southwest corner of WALNUT and TENTH Streets, incorporated February 2, 1867.

DIVIDEND NOTICE. WEST JERSEY RAILROAD COMPANY, TREASURER'S OFFICE, CAMDEN, February 15, 1870.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. LECTURE ON SOCIAL SCIENCE. Professor McVAILINE will deliver his Third Lecture on THURSDAY EVENING next, at 8 o'clock.

CLOTHING. SUPERIOR CLOTHING, READY-MADE AND MADE TO ORDER.

ROCKHILL & WILSON, 603 and 605 CHESTNUT STREET.

BOYS' CLOTHING. NEW STYLES. CHEAP, CHEAPER, CHEAPEST.

BARCAINS IN CLOTHING. GOOD BUSINESS SUITS, \$14, were \$19.

EVANS & LEACH, No. 628 MARKET STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

PRICE & WOOD, N. W. Corner Eighth and Filbert Sts.

J. M. HAFLEIGH, 1012 and 1014 CHESTNUT Street, COMMENCED MONDAY, JANUARY 24, TO CLOSE OUT.

J. W. PROCTOR & CO. SPECIAL NOTICE. CONTINUATION OF SALE.

STOKES & WOOD, S. W. COR. SEVENTH AND ARCH STS.

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J. W. PROCTOR & CO. SPECIAL NOTICE. CONTINUATION OF SALE.

EYRE & LANDELL, FOURTH and ARCH Streets, DEALERS IN BETTER CLASS OF DRY GOODS. OPENING NEW GOODS. STEEL-COLORED NEW SPRING POPLINS. PEARL-COLORED POPLINS. MODE-COLORED POPLINS. NEW GREEN POPLINS. NEW BLUE POPLINS.

E. R. LEE, No. 43 North EIGHTH Street, Has open this day, from New York Auctions, Several Job Lots of Desirable Goods.

JAMES S. EARLE & SONS, No. 816 CHESTNUT Street, WILL SELL THEIR STOCK OF ELEGANT LOOKING GLASSES AT COST. FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

Cartwright & Warner's Underwear, Consisting of Gents' Shirts and Drawers. Ladies' Gowns, Merino Underwear.

Balance of Large Lot of Goods Closing out at an Immense Reduction. Dress Goods Closing out. GLOVES! GLOVES! GLOVES!

Balance of Fall and Winter Gloves reduced. Heavy and Fine Richardson's Linens for Ladies Wear. Heavy Hatters' Linen, 38 cents.

E. R. LEE, No. 43 North EIGHTH Street, OPENED THIS MORNING, 150 Pieces Mohair Dress Goods, Suitable for Suits.

JOSEPH H. THORNLEY, CORNER OF EIGHTH and SPRING GARDEN STS., PHILADELPHIA. WE OFFER IMMENSE BARGAINS IN BLACK SILKS.

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PERKINS & CO., 9 South NINTH Street, HAVE OPENED A FULL LINE OF BAREGE HERNANIES. STEEL-COLORED NEW SPRING POPLINS.